WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Export of Agricultural products

304. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agricultural products for which exports have been permitted by Government;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from export of the agricultural products during 1998-99; and

(c) the names of those agricultural products for which special assistance or grant is provided for by Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Export of all agricultural commodities except the following are free:

	Item	Export Policy
1.	Beef	Prohibited
2.	Onions	Canalised
3.	Gum Karaya	Canalised
4.	Wheat, wheat products and Coarse grains	Free subject to quantitative ceilings to be notified by DGFT from time to time
5.	Niger seeds	Canalised
6.	Pulses	Free in consumer packs upto 5 kgs
7.	Edible oils	Free in consumer packs except Groundnut oil export of which in consumer packs above 5 Kgs is restricted.
8.	Sugar	Restricted subject to quantitative ceilings to be notified by DGFT from time to time

(b) The total value of agricultural products exported during 1998-99 was Rs. 25224.63 crores.

(c) the Government has been providing financial assistance for enhancing production and productivity improvement in quality, development of packaging, improvement of infrastructure and other measures to facilitate exports of agricultural products. Benefits under these measures are available for all agricultural products.

Air freight subsidy is being provided for exports of perishable floricultural products, fresh fruits and vegetables and hatching eggs. For the Current year, items eligible for subsidy are strawberries, papaya (solo variety), lychees, pineapple, cherry, okra brinjal, bittergourd, green chilly, spinach, cherry, tomato, cut flowers, line plants/ bulbs including tissue culture products, green (spring) onion and hatching eggs.

Proposals cleared by FIPB

*306. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) after 13th October, 1999 togetherwith amount in each case;

(b) the details of the proposals; and

(c) whether scrutiny of the proposals was done as per the established norms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Sir, FIPB is only a recommendatory body, on the recommendations of which Government takes decisions. Government have approved 174 proposals involving a total investment of Rs. 2431 crores since 13th October, 1999. The details are given in the Annexure. [*see* Appendix 188, Annexure No. 47]

All the proposals were considered and recommended by FIPB in accordance with the extant notified guidelines, sectoral policies on FDI and in consultation with the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments.